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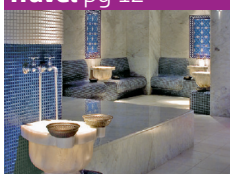
Police turn to TV show to catch suspect

PURSUIT Calgary cops are hoping a popular television show can help nail the final suspect in a January triple homicide. Police yesterday said they have turned to America's Most Wanted to feature a man sought in connection with a New Year's Day killing in a south-east Calgary Vietnamese restaurant.

Nicholas Rodrigo Hovanesian, 24, has connections in his native Uruguay and homicide investigators fear he may enter the United States in an attempt to return.

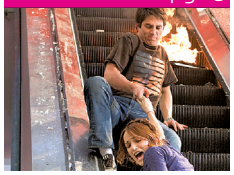
Hovanesian will be featured on the show's website, and if he hasn't been collared by September, he will be the subject of a television feature. METRO CALGARY

Travel pg 12



Elegance in Winnipeg spa

Entertainment pg 15



A look back at 3-D thrills

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Expo Latino **Hot stuff**

ROBIN KUNSKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Kelly Lannan and Eric Caty from Salsa Rica Productions strut their stuff at Olympic Plaza for the launch of the 13th annual Expo Latino, Calgary's unique and exciting Latin American festival that will be held at Prince's Island Park starting Friday night.

Hard times ahead, says Stelmach

Revenues predicted to lag

ANDREAS MORSE
for Metro Canada

The global recession may be coming to an end, but Premier Ed Stelmach warned yesterday that the province's revenues will lag for another year or two.

"There's no question that we are facing difficult times," the premier said during a news conference at the Alberta legislature yesterday. "We face two or three challenging years as the economy recovers from the global recession."

Stelmach said the province has prepared for the lag by investing in public infrastructure, universities and by encouraging research and innovation.

Because of Alberta's volatile revenue stream, Stelmach said the province has put aside about $25 billion, including $17 billion into the Sustainability Fund, which is separate from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

"The Sustainability Fund is just like a home bank account savings fund to deal with issues that may come up unexpectedly," Stelmach said.

"We face two or three challenging years as the economy recovers."
Premier Ed Stelmach

Liberal MLA Laurie Blakeman was skeptical about how long the Sustainability Fund would last.

"A year ago we were all here to hear about the government's $8.5-billion surplus, and now we're here to hear about an almost $7-billion deficit," Blakeman said.

"What I'm hearing the premier say is that he's not really planning to do anything different, just fold your hands together and pray."

Blakeman agreed Alberta's economy is volatile but said the government has done nothing to make it less so.

"At the rate they're going, they're going to run through what is in the Sustainability Fund, I would say, in a year."

Alleged gangster faces deportation: Lawyer

SHAWN LOGAN
for Metro Calgary

CRIME One of Calgary's most notorious alleged gangsters is scheduled to be deported Monday after being jailed yesterday, says his lawyer.

Jackie Tran, 26, was picked up by cops in Pineridge after failing to show up for a scheduled meeting with Canada Border Services, and he now faces a deportation long sought by immigration officials.

Raj Sharma said Tran was told by officials he would be flown back to his native Vietnam after being taken into custody for breach of his release conditions.

Deportation proceedings have been ongoing since 2004, and Sharma said the news his client is being sent home is surprising given unresolved federal applications. Sharma added he will be filing an emergency application to block the move.

Police have alleged Tran is a member of one of two gangs that have been engaged in a bloody street war, which has left at least a dozen dead.

The CBSA would not confirm the deportation.

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Calgary. 120, 3030 - 3 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta T2A 6T7. Publisher: Steve Shrout

Police search for robbery suspect

Police are looking for a Caucasian man in his 30s, five-foot-six and approximately 120 pounds with a slim build, yellowing teeth and pale complexion in connection with the robbery of an ATB Financial in the 3600 block of Westwinds Drive NE on Tuesday around 10:35 a.m. METRO CALGARY

Local

Local artists to engage public

Local artists will be engaging the public on how trades and skills can be used to create art during WorldSkills 2009. The multi-day public event, Aug. 29 to Sept. 5, will feature David Bynoe, creating a set of kinetic cedar wings, and Paul Slipper, demonstrating how stone can become art. For more information on times and location visit calgary.ca/publicart

METRO CALGARY

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Calgary in brief

STABBING Two males suffered stab wounds after two intoxicated men attempted to crash a party and an argument broke out at a home in the 1400 block of 43 Street SW. The offenders fled on foot. A 17-year-old male suffered a wound to the chest and a 40-year-old suffered one to the abdomen. Both are in stable condition. Police continue to investigate.

SCAM City cops are asking for public assistance to nab a band of crooks who may be trying to forge debit and credit cards. Police believe two or three men may be linked to the theft of pin pad machines from two northeast stores on July 9 that could be used to forge phoney cards. If you have information call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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Cracking down on speeders

Police targeting school zones, prepare to write hefty fines

Lead-footed drivers who speed through school zones will face a blitz from Calgary cops starting tomorrow.

As kids with both the public and separate school boards head back to school, police plan on boosting enforcement in the 30 kilometres per hour zones for the next month to ensure a safe return to classes.

Const. Jim Lebedeff of the police traffic education unit said both district patrols and traffic cops will be out in full force to monitor school zones and remind drivers that when the bell rings, it's time to ease off the gas.

"This week we start our blitzes to tell drivers to be aware and slow down," he said.

"There's no excuse for it and there's no leeway for people who aren't paying attention."

The city has about 160 speed reduced school zones that are in force every school day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

> **"There's no excuse for it and there's no leeway for people who aren't paying attention."**
> Calgary Const. Jim Lebedeff

Those who speed through the zones face tickets depending on their speed, drivers who pass other vehicles in school zones will be hit with a $172 fine and failing to yield for a pedestrian may result in a $575 hit.

Calgary Board of Education spokesperson Ted Flitton said the board is still hoping to convince the provincial government to harmonize school and playground zones.

The more than 800 playground zones in Calgary are in effect from 8:30 a.m. until one hour after sunset.

METRO CALGARY FILE PHOTO

Calgary police are set to deploy their annual school zone safety patrols when students hit the books tomorrow.

Provincial EI claims still climbing

EMPLOYMENT People receiving employment insurance in Alberta continues to grow as 61,000 people received beneficiaries in June according to Statistics Canada, which is an increase of 9.4 per cent from May.

Alberta showed the largest increase of out any Canadian province.

Other provinces seeing high numbers of growth are British Columbia, 5.5 per cent, Ontario, 3 per cent, and Saskatchewan, 2.1 per cent.

From June 2008 to June 2009, Albertans collecting employment insurance increased by 263 per cent.

During this same period, Alberta's unemployment rate grew from 3.7 per cent to 6.8 per cent. This is still below the national level of 8.6 per cent.

The average percentage of people claiming EI beneficiaries in Canada increased by 5 per cent from May to June.

METRO CALGARY

Police bust sophisticated cocaine operation

CRIME Calgary police have concluded an operation targeting cocaine trafficking in Calgary.

Two men have been charged and police are looking for a third.

Two warrants were executed on houses Aug. 23 in the 1100 block of 37 Street SW and the 0-100 block of Hemlock Crescent SW.

During the search, police seized a hydraulic cocaine brick press, a sophisticated way of packing and shipping cocaine and very rare for police to seize.

Other items seized included: 3.6 kilograms of Benzocaine, $181,400 street value, 1.5 kilograms of cocaine, $152,410 street value, 68.3 grams of ecstasy, $3,555 street value, and other paraphernalia.

Joshua Lloyd Kemp, 23 and Kyle David Hunter, 23, both of Calgary have been charged with numerous possession and trafficking charges.

An arrest warrant for Michael Philip Paulson, 23, of Calgary has been issued.

METRO CALGARY

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach warns it may take years for the province's finances to fully recover at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Bush heads to Quebec
Former U.S. president George W. Bush will be travelling to Montreal in October for a speaking engagement, CBC News Online reports. Bush is scheduled to speak Oct. 22 at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

Jurassic Park revisited?

After years spent hunting for the buried remains of prehistoric animals, a Canadian paleontologist now plans to manipulate chicken embryos to show he can create a dinosaur, reports say. Hans Larsson, the Canada Research Chair in Macro Evolution at McGill University, said he aims to develop dinosaur traits that disappeared millions of years ago in birds. Larsson believes by flipping certain genetic levers during a chicken embryo's development, he can reproduce the dinosaur anatomy. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Aboriginals face AIDS spread

HEALTH AIDS is spreading faster among Canada's aboriginal people than in the general population, and a strong cultural stigma and links to rising drug use make the problem difficult to solve.

One health official compared it last week to the AIDS epidemic in Africa and warned that up to 30 per cent of the aboriginal population in Saskatchewan could die of AIDS within a decade.

Saskatchewan's top health official dismissed that prediction, but said the rapid spread of AIDS in the native population is a growing concern.

Many aboriginals, a broad term that includes Indians, Inuit and Metis, live in poverty and suffer poorer health than most other Canadians.

Those aboriginal people make up about 3.3 per cent of the population, living mainly in western cities, the North and on rural reserves. REUTERS

News in brief

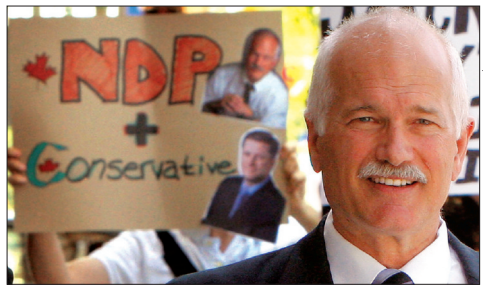
FRACTURES Hip fracture rates have declined among the elderly for a variety of reasons, but the disabling injury is still a major health threat as populations age, Canadian researchers said yesterday. A steady year-over-year decline in fracture rates since 1985 predates widespread use of drugs used to treat osteoporosis and preserve bone density, the researchers said. REUTERS

JENKINS CASE Signs would suggest former reality television contestant and Calgarian Ryan Jenkins as the sole suspect in the murder of his ex-wife, U.S. police said in recent reports. METRO CANADA

PM meets with NDP boss

Talk comes after Grit leader publicly mulls forcing fall election

Prime Minister Stephen Harper was meeting with the head of an opposition party yesterday afternoon as political leaders mulled whether to risk forcing an early election in coming months.



CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Protesters follow NDP Leader Jack Layton as he arrives to meet Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa yesterday.

Harper issued the invitation to Jack Layton, leader of the New Democratic Party, after Layton suggested last month that they talk before Parliament returns from its summer break.

The governing Conservative party has only a minority of seats in the House of Commons and needs the support of one of the three opposition parties to stay in power.

The Conservatives are sending out the message that the country's economic recovery is too fragile to risk holding another election campaign and possibly changing the government so soon after last October's vote.

"We're hearing the Canadian public telling us this is a very dangerous time to have an election," Harper spokesman Dimitri Soudas said.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, told the Montreal newspaper Le Devoir in an interview published Monday that an election at this point would not create any instability.

"We could have an election without endangering anything at all. You could even say it would be good for the country, but that's another story," Ignatieff said.

"We could have an election without endangering anything at all."
Liberal Leader
Michael Ignatieff

However, he added that he was still mulling whether to try to pull the plug on the government, asking himself whether the Liberal party was ready, whether this would be in the national interest, and whether it was possible to continue working with the Tories. REUTERS

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Tobacco will kill six million: Report

Tobacco use will kill six million people next year from cancer, heart disease, emphysema and a range of other ills, the American Cancer Society said in a report issued yesterday. REUTERS

World

Legal blunder lets porn be sold to kids

British retailers who sell children violent or pornographic videos will be immune from prosecution for the next three months after the discovery of a government blunder 25 years ago. Britain should have notified the European Commission of the existence of the Video Recordings Act 1984 — which regulated the industry — but failed to do so. The discovery of the omission means the VRA is not enforceable in U.K. courts. In the interim, people will be able to sell pornographic and violent videos to children under the age of 18 without fear of prosecution. REUTERS

Blast kills 40 as race runs tight

AFGHANISTAN With early results yesterday showing Afghanistan's presidential race neck-and-neck, a massive truck bomb that killed 40 civilians and wounded 60 in Kandahar showed the scale of problems facing the eventual winner. The blast took place shortly after dusk as Afghans across the country were breaking their daily fast in the holy Muslim month of Ramadan.

There was confusion over whether the explosion was from one big truck bomb or a series of smaller, simultaneous devices. Provincial Governor Ahmed Wali Karzai told Reuters that 40 people were killed and more than 60 wounded, all civilians. Earlier, the first partial results from last Thursday's election had President Hamid Karzai and his main rival running neck-and-neck, suggesting a race headed for a runoff. REUTERS

Marriage rights bill in Mali faces protests

Mali's top Islamic body urged President Amadou Toumani Toure yesterday not to sign a new family code boosting women's rights in marriage, pointing to mass protests against it in the mostly Muslim African state.

The code, which won the backing of parliament this month, would throw out a previous clause that a woman should obey her husband, as well as equalize inheritance rights between legitimate and illegitimate children.

"Signing this into law would go against the will of most of this country's over 80 per cent of Muslims," Mohamed Kimbiri, secretary of the High Islamic Council said.

Kimbiri said further protests through the country were planned after a rally through the capital Mabako at the weekend drew some 50,000 demonstrators.

"That was the biggest march ever organized — even the marches of March 26, 1991, did not mobilize as many people," he said of protests which brought down the dictatorship of General Moussa Traore.

Cotton-producing Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world. While it is predominantly Muslim, it has a secular constitution. REUTERS

Philippines **Militant arrested**

ERIK DE CASTRO/REUTERS

Dinno Amor Pareja is escorted to jail in Metro Manila yesterday. Philippine National Police said Pareja, believed to be the new leader of Rajah Solaiman Movement, a local militant cell composed with links to the Abu Sayyaf, Jemaah Islamiya and al-Qaida, was arrested in the southern Philippines.

Runner returns to South Africa

GENDER CONTROVERSY World champion South African runner Caster Semenya, whose victory has been overshadowed by a gender testing controversy, returned home to a heroine's welcome yesterday.

Furious South Africans have accused the International Association of Athletics Federations of everything from racism to imperialism for ordering a gender test after her rapid improvement raised suspicions. Semenya, who won the women's world 800-metres title in Berlin last week, was greeted by thousands at Johannesburg's airport. REUTERS

News in brief

FEDERAL RESERVE U.S. President Barack Obama nominated Ben Bernanke to a second term as Federal Reserve chairman yesterday, aiming for continuity at a time when the U.S. economy is breaking free from a deep recession. The decision, while widely expected, was welcomed by financial markets and policy makers around the globe. Economists said it removed uncertainty at a delicate juncture in the economy's recovery. REUTERS

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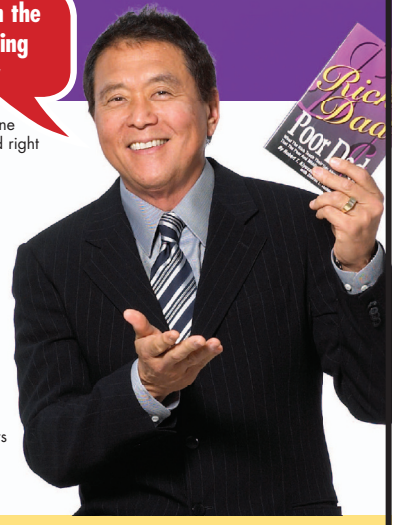

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Fatal cow attacks spur warning
The deaths of no fewer than four people after being trampled by cows in the past two months have prompted Britain's main farming union to issue a warning about the dangers of provoking the normally docile animals. REUTERS

Woman may avoid caning

A Malaysian Islamic appeals court judge has ordered a review of the caning sentence for a woman caught drinking alcohol, paving the way for her to be exempted from the punishment.

Women's Minister Shahrizat Jalil said yesterday that the Chief Appeals Judge for the Islamic courts in the eastern state of Pahang had deferred the caning pending a review of the sentence handed down by a lower court.

Kartika Sari Dewi Shukarno, a 32-year-old mother of two, had already received a temporary reprieve on Monday when a state government official said her punishment would not be carried out until after the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. The Muslim holy month started on Saturday.

She was to have become the first woman in the Southeast Asian country to be caned under rarely enforced Islamic criminal laws.

"The judge has already started this process (to review the sentence), so we will wait for the outcome," said Shahrizat.

Instead of appealing the sentence, Kartika had asked that it be carried out in public, triggering a debate over the use of Islamic laws in the moderate Muslim country.

She was sentenced to six strokes of the cane and a fine after getting caught by Islamic enforcement officials drinking beer at a hotel lounge two years ago. REUTERS

Shariah Law

- Kartika Sari Dewi Shukarno's case has drawn criticism from groups concerned about the rise of Islamic Shariah laws amid increasing Islamization of the majority Malay-Muslims.

India **Effects of flooding**

RUPAK DE CHOWDHURI/REUTERS

Flood-affected women and children ask for food as they stand outside their flooded houses in Koran Tola village of Malda district in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal yesterday. About 1,500 families have been affected by floods caused by monsoon rains, though no causalities have been reported, a state official said. REUTERS

Greek opposition attacks government over fires

CRITICISM Greece's socialist opposition leader said the government had mishandled the fighting of fires that tore through Athens suburbs, destroyed thousands of hectares of forest and forced thousands to flee their homes.

"These fires must put an end to an inefficient state, which winks at lawlessness and illegality," socialist opposition leader George Papandreou said.

Likely to face voters early next year, the conservative government said very strong winds had made it difficult to fight fires in east Attica where swathes of forest and more than 150 homes were destroyed.

Media also criticized the government's handling of the fires, which have now been contained. REUTERS

News in brief

HONDURAS The de facto government in power in Honduras since a June military coup vowed yesterday to stick to a plan to hold a presidential election in November, even if other countries don't recognize the result.

TRIAL A prosecutor demanded yesterday "maximum punishment" for a senior reformer accused of acting against national security, a crime punishable by death, in Iran's fourth mass trial of moderates since a disputed election.

CIA United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said yesterday there should be no immunity from prosecution for torture of terror suspects in a U.S. probe of alleged CIA prisoner abuse cases. The next step would involve criminal liability for anyone who broke the law, Pillay said in a statement.

TALIBAN Pakistani Taliban militants confirmed yesterday for the first time that their leader, Baitullah Mehsud, had been killed, the BBC reported. Pakistani and U.S. officials had said for days that Mehsud was killed in a missile strike by a pilot-less U.S. drone aircraft in his South Waziristan stronghold near the Afghan border on Aug. 5, but the Taliban had denied it. REUTERS

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Comment

Modern tale of tragedy

Form may be different, but outcome remains the same

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

I can't believe I'm writing this, but the Ryan Jenkins/Jasmine Fiore saga has a tragic, almost Shakespearean quality that elevates it above what one reporter called its "grimy glamour."

While its seamy details have cranked the reality TV/tabloid industry into hyperdrive, even threatening to replace Michael Jackson's bizarre addictions as the lead item, this story says something about our times and the people caught up in them.

Ryan, from Calgary, and Jasmine, from Bonny Doon, a suburb of Santa Cruz, Calif., were once real people.

Ryan worked with his father and made real estate deals in Canada's oil capital. He gave flying lessons. He was accomplished.

Jasmine, a.k.a. Jasmine Lepore, was once an athletic girl who loved dogs and horses and dreamed of becoming an actress.

Today they are dead. Jasmine's body was found mutilated to hide her identity, stuffed in a suitcase and discarded in a park near Los Angeles, where it was found by a homeless person. Ryan was the prime (and apparently only) suspect. On the run, he was found dead from an apparent suicide in a cheap motel room in Hope, B.C.

Before they died, they both caught Hollywooditis, which is often fatal. It affects the heart and soul and transforms its victims into strangers to their loved ones and, I suspect, themselves.

"If there was ever a Romeo and Juliet for the reality TV generation, this is it, a cautionary tale for people who think in 10-second sound bites or 140-character Tweets ..."

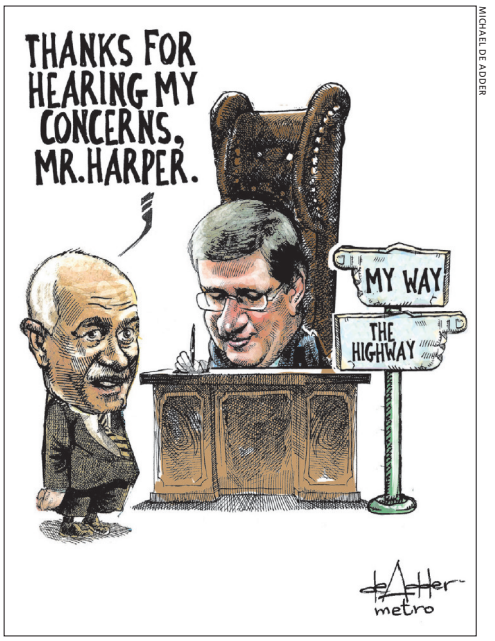
Jasmine changed her name, got a boob job, posed for Playboy and married Ryan, a guy she'd known for two days in Vegas. Ryan became a professional lounge lizard, signing up for "reality" shows called Megan Wants a Millionaire and I Love Money 3, both VH1 productions that wallow in greed and soft porn.

Almost inevitably, these two fakes found each other and that's when reality (the real thing) set in, like the mother of all hangovers.

It would take Shakespeare at the height of his powers to capture all the irony that taints this story. At its core, a most bitter twist: Although Jasmine's killer — allegedly Ryan — pulled her teeth out and cut off her fingers to obscure her identity, the CSI wizards identified her by the serial numbers on her breast implants. Even Shakespeare would have a tough time coming up with that one.

If there was ever a Romeo and Juliet for the reality TV generation, this is it, a cautionary tale for people who think in 10-second sound bites or 140-character Tweets, rather than Acts 1, 2 or 3. The form may be different, but the outcome is the same. The lovers end up dead and the rest is silence … at least until the next exclusive report, after these messages from our sponsor.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

It's all in the numbers when seeking a mate

Looking for "the one?" An Australian mathematician says singles face much better odds if they date, and then reject, 12 potential partners, and then start searching for love.

Dr. Clio Cresswell, of the University of Sydney, told Reuters this strategy, the result of a complex mathematical analysis, gave those looking for love a 75 per cent chance of actually finding a partner — and staying with them.

"We're so used to saying 'he's the one' but we've got such an awful track record, with divorce rates so high in many places," she said. "But even in this day and age, where we meet so many people every day, 12 is still a valid number.

12 According to Dr. Clio Cresswell's theory, singles should have at least 12 romantic attachments, which don't necessarily have to involve a physical relationship, to considerably improve their chances for finding their perfect partner.

"This isn't about right or wrong, its about patterns," Cresswell said. "Mr. or Mrs. Right don't just come into our life. We have to work at it."

Cresswell, who has written a book called Mathematics and Sex and wants to make maths as accessible and enjoyable as the arts, says her theory is aimed at bringing some rational thought into the often irrational process of falling in love, and should not be confused with relationship advice.

REUTERS

Word on the street: Is global warming responsible for the extreme weather happening worldwide?

David Derflinger, age 21, Calgary
A: Yes. We are getting colder summers, warmer winters. It's like we're getting one season all combined in one.

Lisa Hojszak, age 25, Calgary
A: Definitely. I've lived in Calgary my whole life and every winter has been different the past few years and every summer is different.

Sam Jomha, age 31, Edmonton
A: No, because historical weather patterns show that weather's always been like that — it's cyclical.

Robyn Carruthers, age 27, Ottawa
A: In broader terms, the larger trends ... yes, absolutely. The weather's changing, the climate's changing.

Andrew Spencer, age 40, Toronto
A: Yes ... It has a lot to do with the industrial revolution that has put all the toxic waste and gas into the environment. It's an accumulation of years of neglect and greed.

Tania Mondragon, age 32, Vancouver
A: I think it is related. We've reached the point where nobody has cared about the environment for so long and this is the result. It's a wake-up call to all of us.

Metro Online Poll Results

48% SAID YES

Do you think there will be a federal election in the fall?
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52% SAID NO

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BMO reports better-than-expected Q2

Bank of Montreal said yesterday its quarterly profit rose 6.9 per cent, surpassing expectations, as it set aside less money to cover bad loans and trading revenue surged. REUTERS

7

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

EI claims down in June

Dive in applications may signal recession's end

More Canadians received Employment Insurance benefits in June compared with the month before, but the number of new claims also fell sharply — a sign that the worst of the recession may have passed.

In June, 816,630 people collected EI benefits, up 5.1 per cent from May and up 73.1 per cent year over year, from June, 2008, Statistics Canada said yesterday.

The biggest increases came in Alberta, British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

At the same time, initial and renewal claims received in June fell by 7.9 per cent. That's the largest drop since the job market and the economy turned sour last October.

Claims fell in all provinces and territories, with the exception of Ontario, which saw a slight increase of 0.9 per cent.

"We are still in 'the worst of times.' Every month, tens of thousands more Canadians are laid off than can find new jobs," United Steelworkers economist Erin Weir wrote in a report yesterday.

"The better news is that new benefit claims declined sharply, albeit from an all-time record high. While hardly 'the best of times,' this revelation provides hope that Canada's labour market is getting worse more slowly."

In another potentially positive sign, the number of EI beneficiaries rose more slowly in the second quarter of this year compared with the first three months, 18.8 per cent versus 25.2 per cent.

Between June 2008 and June 2009, the number of people receiving regular EI benefits increased in all 28 census metropolitan areas.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Alta., Ont. struck

- Alberta and Ontario were particularly hard-hit. In Calgary, the number of people receiving EI benefits rose nearly fivefold in June to 19,020 from 3,960 in June, 2008. In Windsor, Ont., the number of EI recipients more than tripled in June 2009 to 14,240 from 4,480 a year ago.

GlaxoSmithKline said to be eyeing Human Genome

HEALTH Human Genome Sciences Inc. shares rose nearly 12 per cent yesterday on renewed chatter that GlaxoSmithKline Plc. was set to pay a healthy premium for the company to gain full control of the promising lupus drug Benlysta.

Human Genome shares soared in mid-July after it released late-stage clinical data showing a significant improvement of lupus symptoms in patients taking the drug that many observers had written off.

It has been several decades since a new lupus treatment was approved in a field littered with clinical failures. The complex disease causes the immune system to attack the body's own tissues and organs, including the joints, kidneys, heart and lungs. REUTERS

Germany says GM still considering Opel sale

AUTO Germany believes the management of General Motors is still committed to finding a buyer for its European unit Opel, government officials said yesterday after talks with the U.S. automaker in Berlin.

At a meeting on Friday, GM's board of directors postponed a decision on management's proposals to relinquish a controlling stake in Opel either to Canadian automotive group Magna or Belgium-based finance investor RHJ.

REUTERS

Business in brief

BANK OF CANADA Canada's recession most likely ended in the third quarter, the Bank of Canada said yesterday, voicing cautious optimism but also sounding a warning about possible persistent Canadian dollar strength. Deputy Governor Timothy Lane said that a good deal of the recovery had come from official action. REUTERS

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Former NBA ref arrested again

Disgraced former NBA referee Tim Donaghy is back behind bars, accused of violating his federal probation by not showing up for work, the U.S. Marshals Service said. Donaghy, 42, was being held without bond a day after his arrest at a halfway house in Tampa where he was finishing his 15-month sentence for gambling charges. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Cowboys hang 'em low

The NFL plans to discuss the massive video boards that hang over the field at the new Cowboys Stadium. The 60-yard long high-definition screens hanging 90 feet over the field appear to be easy targets for punters. Titans rookie A.J. Trapasso booted a ball into the screens in the first game there Friday. The Cowboys consulted the NFL about the screens during construction of the nearly $1.2-billion US stadium. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

NFL Serena and Venus Williams paid a visit to the Miami Dolphins' complex yesterday as the latest celebrities to own a small stake in the franchise. Their deal, first reported last week, was confirmed at a news conference overlooking the Dolphins' practice field.

FORMULA ONE India's sports ministry has rejected the idea of extending sports-linked customs duty exemptions that would have made it cheaper to import equipment being used for the construction of a Formula One race track. India is keen to join the F1 grand prix circuit in 2011 on a course being built on the outskirts of New Delhi.

BOLT Usain Bolt's agent says representatives for the record-breaking track star are in talks with publishers about a biography. Ricky Simms says he's negotiating a deal for a book for the sprinter but can't discuss many details yet. METRO NEWS SERVICES

From fan to phenom

Sid the Kid excited about 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity'

LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Canada

When the Canadian men's hockey team won gold at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Sidney Crosby celebrated as a fan like the rest of us.

"At the time you felt so lucky to witness that," said Crosby after practising on a line with Jarome Iginla and Rick Nash for the second straight day at Team Canada's orientation camp in Calgary. "To see the whole country celebrate the way they did, it was pretty awesome."

Four years later, Crosby was well on his way to a 102-point campaign as a rookie forward with the Pittsburgh Penguins, but that still didn't earn him a spot on Team Canada for the 2006 Games in Turin, Italy.

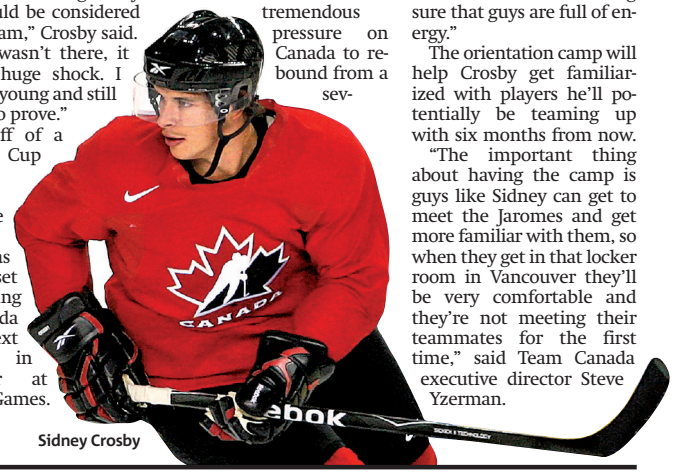
"Never in a million years would I have thought my name would be considered for that team," Crosby said. "When I wasn't there, it wasn't a huge shock. I was really young and still had a lot to prove."

Fresh off of a Stanley Cup championship with the Penguins, Crosby has his sights set on helping lead Canada to gold next February in Vancouver at the 2010 Games.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be in the Olympics in your home country," said Crosby, who realizes there will be tremendous pressure on Canada to rebound from a seventh-place showing four years ago. "That's to be expected. If anything, it should be helping as far as motivation and making sure that guys are full of energy."

The orientation camp will help Crosby get familiarized with players he'll potentially be teaming up with six months from now.

"The important thing about having the camp is guys like Sidney can get to meet the Jaromes and get more familiar with them, so when they get in that locker room in Vancouver they'll be very comfortable and they're not meeting their teammates for the first time," said Team Canada executive director Steve Yzerman.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Heart surgery can't stop Boone
Aaron Boone is set to rejoin the Houston Astros on Friday, five months after undergoing open-heart surgery, and will be activated when rosters expand on Sept. 1. Boone has been playing in the minor leagues since Aug. 10, going 3 for 15 with one RBI in Double-A. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reinsdorf out, NHL in as Coyotes saga continues

Another day, another round of stunning plot twists in the Phoenix Coyotes bankruptcy soap opera ahead of the Sept. 10 auction for the team.

Chicago sports mogul Jerry Reinsdorf, the NHL's preferred bidder for the franchise, is now out of the running, dropping his bid yesterday because he couldn't work out an arena lease.

So, seemingly desperate to keep the Coyotes out of the hands of Canadian billionaire Jim Balsillie, the NHL has stepped up and submitted its own bid for the team. The league has made an as-yet unknown offer for the Coyotes, with plans to flip the team "to a third party outside of bankruptcy."

In a statement, deputy commissioner Bill Daly called it "an effort to maximize the likelihood that the club ultimately will be sold to an acceptable purchaser who is committed to operating the franchise in Glendale."

In other words, someone not named Balsillie, who commissioner Gary Bettman and the league's governors don't want in the league.

Balsillie filed an amended bid for the team earlier this week, restating his offer of $212.5 million (all figures U.S.) for the club. If successful, the Research in Motion co-CEO would move the team to Hamilton to play out of Copps Coliseum. He believes that relocation could still happen in time for this season, stating that again in a filing yesterday.

Balsillie's group, which is favoured by current owner Jerry Moyes, was caught off guard by news of the NHL's bid.

"This obviously comes as a surprise but we look forward to seeing what the NHL's bid is," said spokesman Bill Walker.

"All we've asked for since Day 1 when we launched our bid was a chance to get into an open auction on a level playing field with other bidders and let the best bid win. That's what the bankruptcy court process was designed to do, to maximize value for creditors."

Bankruptcy Judge Redfield T. Baum will rule in one week on whether Balsillie will be allowed to participate in the Sept. 10 auction. Balsillie was rejected as a potential owner in a 26-0 vote by the NHL governors.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"This obviously comes as a surprise but we look forward to seeing what the NHL's bid is."
Bill Walker, spokesman for Jim Balsillie

Sports in brief

BASEBALL The New York Mets traded reliever Billy Wagner to the Boston Red Sox yesterday. In return, the Mets received two players to be named from the American League wild-card leaders. Wagner ranks sixth all-time with 385 career saves. He joins a bullpen led by closer Jonathan Papelbon.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Nissan sees the light

Nissan is working on a project to study the development of a quick-charging system for electric vehicles (EV) using solar panels. The program is designed to maximize the use of renewable energy for EVs, provide power during electricity outages, and reduce demand on grid power. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

Pet's best rides

U.S. pet safety organization Bark Buckle UP has named the top ten pet-friendly vehicles currently available. They are, in alphabetical order: Ford Flex, GMC Acadia, Hyundai Tucson, Jeep Liberty, Kia Borrego, Mazda5, Mitsubishi Outlander, Subaru Tribeca and Volvo XC70. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Coupe a real looker

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

The 2009 Hyundai Genesis Coupe

During a recent summertime hot-spell, I visited a local creamery for a giant ice-cream cone. While my artery-clogging snack was being prepared, I didn't notice the crowd gathering in the parking lot around the electric blue Hyundai Genesis Coupe 2.0T I drove there.

Turns out this was the wrong car to try and eat an ice cream beside. The dozen or so folks standing around had plenty of questions — and my treat turned into a drippy mess before I could answer them all.

If you want the scoop on the Genesis Coupe, please read this FAQ. That way, other Genesis drivers can enjoy their summertime ice-cream in peace.

Ever sexy. Is that really a Hyundai?

It is indeed! In fact, it's probably the sexiest car Korea's ever built. It's a real looker — very wide, low, menacing, and detailed, with a fantastic stance.

You can get a V8 in this, right?

No, that's the Genesis Sedan. The four-door comes with a 280 horsepower V6 or a 375 horsepower V8. Both are automatic.

The Coupe gets a 2.0 litre four cylinder "world" engine with a turbocharger, good for 210 horsepower. There's a 3.8 litre V6 with 306 horsepower available. Both can be had in automatic or six-speed manual.

How's it go?

Not bad at all. The turbo four cylinder is a decent entry-level engine, though it's far from a head-pinning drag racer. Just don't go picking on your buddy with the Mustang GT.

The four cylinder unit is very responsive coming out of a light, and the turbo works nicely to increase responsiveness when cruising at a good highway clip too. Unfortunately, the engine is no pinnacle of refinement.

Is that rear-wheel drive?

Yes! If you're looking for an affordable rear-drive sport compact with a back seat, it's one of your few options.

Rear-drive is a novelty in this market as much as it's a very real criteria for some shoppers. It has benefits in handling and performance potential.

Plus, your friends with Civics and Cobalts will secretly be jealous that your car can drift — like in those YouTube videos.

What's the interior like?

Hyundai's created a genuine coupe cockpit in here. It's nice to look at, driver-centric without being crowded, and surprisingly roomy. The wide body means plenty of knee and shoulder room, and the back seats can actually be used by human beings.

What about the handling?

A nice balance between sportiness and comfort, though not quite an ultra-precise asphalt scalpel. The Genesis rides commendably and delivers the feel of balance and sharpness that attracts enthusiasts to rear-drive cars.

Do you like it?

Yes! But it's not perfect. The trunk opening is small, the rearward visibility is somewhat limited, and the turning circle is pretty clumsy.

OMG, I like, totally want one. How much?

With the four-cylinder, pricing starts at $24,495.

2010 Hyundai Genesis Coupe

Type: Two-door sport coupe
Price: from $24,995
Engine: 2.0L four cylinder/3.8L V6
HP: 210/306

Highlights

- Sexy looks
- Affordable
- Rear drive

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Automakers make bold, new design choices

AutoPilot

When it comes to automotive design, are you a modernist or a folk singer?

(How many folk singers does it take to screw in a light bulb? Four. One to screw in the light bulb. Three to sing about how much better was the old light bulb.)

Like most people, you're probably a bit of both. So designers are constantly trying to walk that line between imagining a fresh look, but one that also embodies traditions that everybody loves and expects.

The automaker that had the hardest time walking this line of late has been Jaguar. Until quite recently, its designs didn't stray much from those first envisioned by its founder, William Lyons.

Now take a look at the just-revealed all-new XJ sedan. I'm not sure most people would instantly recognize this new XJ sedan as a "Jaguar."

But Jaguar had to make this move. It could no longer afford to be only curators of old-world charm.

I think the best scenario for redesigning a nameplate: You notice a car parked car in the distance — something new and exciting. You don't know what it is, but you like it. As you get closer, say 10 paces, you wonder if it could be the new "Wasfinger?" When you get right up to it, and before you see any badges, you know for sure it's the new Wasfinger. You really liked the old Wasfinger, but this one's even better.

You can definitely say Cadillac has been successful in reinventing itself in an all-new, modern idiom. The rear section of the CTS, for example, with its vertical tail lamps and creased fender line, is all at once good looking, modern, and reminiscent of Cadillac tail fins of the 1950s.

The new Jaguar XJ breaks free of the marque's old-world charm with a modernist design.

I also like Lincoln's new design direction. It's distinctive and substantial and very American, and not too overpowering.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Metro Workology exclusive: Backstage Pass
In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will be focusing on the part of the entertainment industry that you DON'T see. Backstage Pass will focus on the careers behind the camera and the curtain. So be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work every day.

Workology

Seismic testing

Three Canadian environmental groups have filed a lawsuit against the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and New York-based Columbia University in an attempt to prevent a U.S. research project involving seismic tests in a marine protected area 250 kilometres southwest of Vancouver Island. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Producing is creative problem-solving

Anne Tait discusses the industry's highs and lows

RAF BRUSILOW
For Metro Canada

"A producer has to have the financial savvy to raise money and the ability to understand the needs of creative people."
Anne Tait, producer

Producer Anne Tait and script co-writer Barry Pearson on a film set. Tait credits her Masters degree in English for helping her hone the necessary communication skills needed in film production.

For Anne Tait, the journey to producing the Iron Road was a long and winding one indeed.

In fact, it was nine years long; though the endlessly energetic Tait is no stranger to arduous challenges.

The Toronto-born casting director, writer, director, broadcaster and producer has already mastered many roles in a long career in the entertainment industry. She was a senior casting director at CBC TV for years on shows like Anne of Green Gables and Road to Avonlea and has cast actors like Peter O'Toole, Russell Crowe and Helena Bonham Carter for feature films. She has also written and produced her own hit play, Yeats in Love, which played in Dublin, Ireland, and throughout Ontario.

Now with the recent premiere of her film Iron Road, Tait has finally conquered the role of film producer as well.

The film, which screened as a two-part mini-series on CBC Aug. 9 and 16, represents a labour of love nine years in the making for Tait who wanted to shed light on the harrowing story of Chinese railroad workers in Canada in the late 1800s.

Iron Road was produced in tandem with mainland China and cost more than $12 million to create, with filming split between China and the mountains of British Columbia.

Tait says her experience as a casting director definitely helped her ease into the role of producer.

"Every actor has an ego and you have to have a lot of tact to know what different approaches to use with different people. A producer has to have the financial savvy to raise money and the ability to understand the needs of creative people. You have to have a creative vision," Tait said.

While Tait learned the ins and outs of casting directing on the job, she credits her Masters degree in English from the University of Toronto for helping her hone the communication skills necessary to successfully head up a film production.

Despite having succeeded as a film producer, Tait is not yet ready to give up casting directing.

"The thing that always interested me the most was choosing the actors. I love seeing wonderful actors get a role and seeing wonderful performances from someone unexpected," Tait said.

Tait feels like she deserves her break before jumping into her next likely project, a screenplay of her play Yeats in Love.

"Right now I'm feeling wonderful emotions — it makes up for an awful lot of lows. A producer is always solving problems and right now, for at least a week, I don't have a fire to put out or a problem to solve," she joked.

Backstage Pass

Marketing teams have greater influence: Study

JOBS Although the recession has hit many marketing departments hard, there is some good news for those in the creative industry: Sixty-one per cent of marketing and advertising executives interviewed said marketing teams have greater influence on business decisions than they did three years ago. This compares to 23 per cent who believe marketing professionals hold less sway.

The national study was developed by The Creative Group.

"In the current economy, especially, many businesses must reinvent themselves, and marketers can play an instrumental role in helping their firms identify and fill emerging needs," said Megan Slabinski, executive director of The Creative Group.

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Travel

Month of beer festivals

This September, Colorado will host not one but three beer-related festivals. There's the 16th annual Telluride Blues & Brews Festival, telluridebluesandbrews.com, from Sept. 18-20; the Denver Beer Fest, denver.org/denverbeerfest, from Sept. 18-27; and the Great American Beer Festival, greatamericanbeerfestival.com, also held in Denver, from Sept. 24-26. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Ten out of 10

At Winnipeg's iconic Fort Garry Hotel, Ten Spa offers up a luxurious experience

BY ANNE DIMON
for Metro Canada

As I walk into Ten Spa, on the tenth floor of Winnipeg's landmark Fort Garry Hotel, what pops into my mind is that it's surprisingly elegant.

I'd heard only good things, but hadn't expected it to be so upscale. As far as spas go, it's less what one might expect in Winnipeg and more like New York meets Vegas.

In the lounge, white leather settees (some grouped together and surrounded by gauzy white sheers for semi privacy), rich dark woods and a wall of multi-toned brown and beige mosaic tiles set a sophisticated environment.

While awaiting services — the full gamut of massages, bodywork and esthetics offered in 11 treatments rooms plus a mani/pedi area overlooking the cityscape and the historic Forks Market — guests snack on dried fruit, cookies, muffins and dates.

A spa menu of more substantial offerings is available, and champagne and dessert can be pre-ordered.

Modern and stylish, the spa is indeed a beautiful space, but it's the large and lovely mosaic-tiled co-ed hammam and the hot-air bathing ritual that really gives Ten its point of distinction. Massage therapist, Mario Digirolamo, escorts me to the heated hammam tea room to acclimatize. Here, in this tiny, comfy space, guests warm themselves while nibbling on Turkish sweets and sipping traditional mint-flavoured Moroccan tea.

Read more on page 14 ››

More details

- tenspa.com
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TYRONE McFADDON

Ten Spa's spa's large, mosaic-tiled co-ed hammam.

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Responsible travel awards
Condé Nast Traveler magazine's World Savers Awards, now in their third year, honour companies for efforts in five areas: Poverty alleviation, cultural or environmental preservation, education programs, wildlife conservation, and health initiatives. REUTERS

High on Albania's mountains

DAVE LONG
A view of a plateau in the mountains of northern Albania.

A century ago, a famed British travel writer fell in love with the rugged villages of traditional stone houses in northern Albania, a region she praised for its magnificent isolation.

Theth is just as rugged and pure today as when Edith Durham visited in 1909.

Following a century of wars, Stalinist rule and economic turmoil, the villagers see its remoteness as a lure for foreigners seeking the thrill of escape.

Theth's traditional two-story stone houses, known as "kullas," with steep wooden roofs are nestled in a valley and the lower slopes of mountains covered with beech, pine and other trees below. The peaks tower above at 2,000 to 2,694 metres, where pockets of snow linger throughout the year.

"I think no place where human beings live has given me such an impression of majestic isolation from all the world," Durham, one of the first outsiders to visit the area, wrote in her 1909 book High Albania.

Westerners seeking pristine nature pass by Durham's portrait carved on a stone relief and bearing the words Highland Queen on the road to Theth among a crown of rugged peaks.

On a recent day, Czech tourist Andrej Rapant, whose father organizes tours to Theth, was one of a dozen people who had pitched a tent in a plum tree orchard by the river. He came to Albania to get away to the mountains but avoid the tourists who crowd the Alps in Central Europe every summer.

"We are looking for pure nature and find it in these mountains, because it is so natural," he said. After generations of rugged self-reliance, local highlanders were skeptical about the tourist potential of their region. Three years ago, locals told an expert from Germany's GTZ agency, which encourages international development that his talk of tourism here was that of "an alien from another planet".

GTZ official Ismail Beka issued a televised appeal to discuss tourism, and agency experts advised locals how to spruce up their stone houses to receive guests and treat them to local meat, dairy products, honey and tea.

Seven families accepted GTZ's offer of $2,855 US worth of beds, toilets and showers. Three years on, everyone now wishes they had done the same.

"Money was the smallest thing we invested there," Beka said. "We spent time and energy to win hearts; a big thing was achieved with little. Some 5,000 people came last year."

REUTERS

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National Parks documentary

Fans of documentary maker Ken Burns will want to keep an eye out for his new six-episode series, The National Parks: America's Best Idea, which will begin airing on PBS stations starting Sept. 27. For more details, see pbs.org/nationalparks. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Getting hot and steamy in Winnipeg

>> Continued from page 12

This is also where the spa robe is exchanged for a traditional pestemal — think checkered table cloth that you wrap around your torso — before entering the hammam.

Wearing the pestemal, you shower and give yourself a sea salt scrub before lying down on a raised and heated marble platform for the wash with a traditional handmade olive oil-based soap.

That's followed by a brisk brushing with a gommage, which is a rough glove, then another scrub with soap. Overhead, tiny (read tasteful) twinkling lights give the feeling that you're staring up at the night sky from someplace that has one very humid climate. Soft strains of Middle Eastern music add to the experience.

Every few minutes a spew of steam keeps the hammam at a sweltering 45 C. If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the hammam. Seriously.

Suddenly, a cool wave washes over me — literally — as Maria gently pours a tas (traditional Turkish container) full of water over my soaped-up skin. Even if you don't like to be the feel of cool water on your skin, it's so hot in here you'll welcome it. Then, there's a scheduled "time out" to rehydrate and you can take the break back in the tea room or in the hammam itself with a bottle of iced water or a cool shower.

Next, in one of the hammam's private rooms, there's another scrub down with olive oil soap followed by a massage. One of the massage "tools" is a fine cotton pillow filled with air and olive oil suds. Image how it might feel to be massaged with a cloud — very unusual. A few therapist-guided stretches completes the hammam part of the treatment.

Then there's a 20-minute "relax" in the Quiet Room, which is elegantly cozy with pearl grey walls, candlelight and more white leather furnishings which are roomy enough to allow quests to stretch out and nap. Those who have just emerged from the hammam are served an ayran (a mix of yogurt, sea salt and spring water) to help replenish the electrolytes lost along with toxins in the heat of the hammam.

Feeling good — and squeaky clean — I leave Ten Spa to explore the rest of this pleasantly surprising city.

*Advance purchase required. For details, please visit greyhound.ca or call 1-800-661-TRIP. New bus design shown here is currently only available on select routes. Restrictions may apply. © 2009 Greyhound Canada Transportation ULC.

Flutter by Natural History Museum

LONDON London's Natural History Museum has come alive this summer with a Butterfly Jungle exhibition, running until Sept. 27. The show gives visitors the chance to walk like a spider, hang out like a sloth and swing with the monkeys as they journey from the forest floor to the jungle canopy, meeting some of the creatures that live there along the way. Visitors will travel through the foliage and heat of the rainforest, meeting inhabitants such as Charlie the green iguana and Sumo the ornate horned frog. At the end of this journey they will reach the highlight of the exhibition: a walk among hundreds of live moths and butterflies from all over the world. The Butterfly Jungle is aimed at families and schools with children aged between five and 11, but is entertaining for people of any age. REUTERS

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Abdul joins Divas
With her American Idol judging career behind her, Paula Abdul has inked her first post-Simon gig. Abdul will be hosting VH1's Divas special, which will air Sept. 17 and features Kelly Clarkson, Miley Cyrus, Leona Lewis and others. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

Most dangerous
Jessica Biel has been named the most dangerous celebrity online by security technology company McAfee. The company says searches for Biel are more likely to result in viruses than searches for other celebrities. USMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Return of 3-D thrills

Film format has produced its share of gimmicks and gags

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

With 3-D movies slowly taking over multiplexes and glasses-free 3-D televisions only a few years away, it seems like theformat is entering a renaissance.

Given all the hype surrounding 3-D, it's easy to forget that it was once regarded as little more than a gimmick used to bump up the grosses of B-grade sci-fi and horror movies.

This weekend's The Final Destination returns 3-D back to its roots by enlivening a cheesy horror film with visual 3-D gags. With that in mind, we take a look back at some of the great — and not-so-great — horror films and thrillers to be released in 3-D.

The Creature From The Black Lagoon (1954) This classic Universal monster movie has been a staple of costume parties and horror-themed toys for years. But it's often forgotten that the original film was one of the great 3-D hits of the '50s. Though the monster itself is still one of the most memorable to ever be put on screen, the movie is probably best viewed today for nostalgia and camp value.

Dial M For Murder (1954) Alfred Hitchcock briefly dabbled in 3-D with this classic stage adaptation.

Movie **feature**

Rather than simply using 3-D to prod at the audience with pointy objects, Hitchcock used it subtly to create a picture box image that recreated the appearance of watching a stage play. Hitchcock's careful depth-focused framing is quite atmospheric, and yes the master of suspense does include a few pop-up effects to make the audience jump (how could he resist?). Even though the movie represents one of the most effective examples of 3-D filmmaking, it's rarely screened in it's original format.

Andy Warhol's Flesh For Frankenstein (1973) This Andy Warhol produced, Paul Morrissey directed trashy horror flick is a self-conscious camp classic. Every scene features hilariously convoluted dialogue, ridiculously over the top acting, and buckets of fake blood. The quite funny and oddly sexualized Frankenstein reboot should really be seen in any format, but thrives in 3-D where it's just that much sillier. You haven't lived until you've seen Udo Kier deliver his endless dying monologue while a giant spike pokes through his chest, dangling his heart over the audience. Priceless.

Final Destination returns 3-D back to its roots by enlivening a cheesy horror film with visual 3-D gags.

The Final Destination hits theatres on Friday

Jaws 3-D (1983) and Friday The 13th 3-D (1982) For a while, horror franchises couldn't resist releasing their third film outings in 3-D (the title change was just too easy). Jaws 3 and Friday The 13th Part 3 are probably the most famous examples. Both movies are filled with 3-D gags and little else, but have barely been seen in 3-D since the '80s. Instead, generations of kids have simply wondered why stuff keeps jutting out towards the camera for no apparent reason.

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Avatar unveiled

Reaction to Cameron's latest recalls Titanic forecasts

James Cameron has raised the curtain a bit on Avatar, his 3-D journey into the future of filmmaking.

The first public look at footage from his upcoming sci-fi epic was decked out in the latest techno trappings: an online trailer, offered in HD, and 16 minutes of footage on 3-D Imax screens. Inevitably, they were met by a chorus of tweets and Facebook updates offering instant rushes to judgment.

Although Cameron is determined to be cutting-edge, the weekend chatter sounded like so much deja vu — the conversation surrounding Avatar isn't all that different from the talk that preceded the director's Titanic 12 years ago.

Consider Avatar first. When the 2-D trailer went online Thursday, demand was instantaneous: 20th Century Fox reported that Avatar quickly became the most downloaded trailer at Apple.com, where it triggered a record four million streams its first day.

The fans immediately began weighing in. On Twitter, there were plenty of exclamations of "Amazing!"; there also were cries of "CG crap!" The first hundred or so instant pundits who compared the footage to such animated fantasies as Delgo and FernGully were sort of amusing; the next few thousand or so, not so much.

The run-up to Avatar's Dec. 18 debut is more than a little reminiscent of the establishment skepticism that preceded Titanic.

Back then, movie sites like AintItCoolNews were in their infancy, and mainstream media was firmly in control of the discourse. It snickered that everyone already knew Titanic's ending. It seized upon mishaps like a bout of food poisoning on the Nova Scotia set as evidence of production woes. Assessing the movie's commercial prospects, Entertainment Weekly sniffed, "No A-list box-office stars." REUTERS

The Twitterverse speaks

- I saw the #Avatar preview and I've seen Ferngully. Comparing them is like comparing a '99 Cabernet to a boxed white zin. —@wriorprncs
- I saw the #Avatar trailer on the big screen today. THIS is what all the fuss is about? Final Fantasy Movie 2.0? —@doloresm

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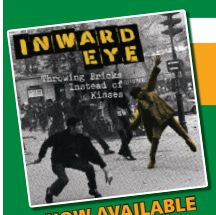

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	243	317 3 CFCN	etalk	Dance	Big Bang Th	Gary Unmarr	CSI: NY "Veritas" (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		The Simpsons	King	Metropia
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Wipeout (HDTV) (N)		(10:02) Crash Course		Primetime
	245	306 6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy!	Dragon's Den (HDTV)		The Tudors (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	In Plain Sight (N)		Wipeout (HDTV) (N)		(10:02) In Plain Sight		News Hour
	246	- 8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Murdoch Mysteries		Goode Family	Surviving Sub.	Less-Kind	Less-Kind	Your City
	119	705 9 CBXFT	Des squelettes	L'Épicerie	Les Galas 2008 du Festival		Bons baisers de France (SC)		Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		TJ Alberta
primetime	-	- 10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY
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	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy!	Wheel-Fortune	America's Got Talent		America's Got Talent		Law/Ord SVU
	-	373 22 KAYU	The Simpsons	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV)		Bones (HDTV)		News
	297	652 37 WPIX	America's Next Top Model		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Frasier
news	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502 31 CNN2	Jane Velez-Mitchell		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Jane Velez-Mitchell		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400 21 TSN	MLB Baseball		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Off the Record	2009 World Series of Poker		World Series
	408	418 27 net	World Sport	UEFA Champions League Soccer Teams TBA.					Sportsnet Connected		Fight Night
	410	403 30 SCORE	(5) RaceNight		Score Tonight		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
	411	457 44 OLN	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman		Ghost Hunters
	417	406 48 SPEED	Pass Time (N)	Pass Time (N)	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Amer. Thunder	Pinks Outtakes	Pass Time
family	552	543 20 YTV	iCarly	iCarly	Drake & Josh	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Survive This	Adrenaline Proj	Falcon Beach
	557	541 39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School
	555	545 67 TOON	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken
	575	583 11 CMT	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Paul Brandt-Heroes		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	553	546 17 TREE	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Babar	Backyardigans	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	- 18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	Psych		D. Richards	Kendra	Women on Top	Women on Top	CHCA News
	505	398 19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568 23 W	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Love It or List It		*Good Witch*
	521	560 24 TLC	Truth Be Told (HDTV) (N)		Toddlers & Tiaras (N)		Lottery Changed My Life		Truth Be Told (HDTV)		Toddler-Tiara
	603	561 25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		The Next Food Network Star		Opening Soon	Opening Soon	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Diner, Drive-In
	615	520 26 A&E	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel Mindfreak		Criss Angel Mindfreak		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter
	617	522 32 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		The Guard (HDTV)		*Time and Again* (2007, Drama)		
	601	562 33 SLICE	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives OC		Trading Sp
	-	633 34 ENC2	(7:15) *The Peacekeeper* ★★ (1997, Action)				*Eraser* ★★ (1996, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger.				*Collateral Dam.*
	520	505 35 DISC	After the Catch		Mayday		Daily Planet		Mayday		Mighty Ships
	620	523 36 BRAVO	Wingfield	Wingfield	Curveball: W.P. Kinsella		Law & Order		Without a Trace		*Richard III*
	294	650 40 WPCH	(6) *Next of Kin* (1989)		Seinfeld	*Unleashed* ★★ (2005, Action) Jet Li, Bob Hoskins.				*Unleashed* (2005, Action)	
	626	547 41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show
	-	539 42 TCM	(6) *The King and I* (1956, Musical)			*The Magnificent Seven* ★★★ (1960, Western)				(10:45) *Westworld*	
	628	584 43 SPIKE	*Star Wars-Sith*	(7:18) *Star Wars: Episode III -- Revenge of the Sith* ★★★ (2005, Science Fiction)						CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	
	522	516 45 HIST	Crime Stories		NCIS "About Face"		Ice Road Truckers		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS
	627	528 46 SPACE	Primeval		Stormworld (N)	Stormworld (N)	Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Trek: Voyager
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *The Delta Force* ★★ (1986, Action) Chuck Norris.				*Delta Force 2* ★★ (1990, Action) Chuck Norris, Billy Drago.				
	619	525 49 TROP	Office Temps		The Crow: Stairway to Heaven		What Happen?	What Happen?	Inside Hollywood		Raymond
	600	564 50 HGTV	Property Virgin	Hid Potential	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes	Holmes-Homes	Hid Potential	Property Virgin	Big City Broker
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		News	CTV News	News	CTV News	News	CTV News	News
	504	508 70 BNN	Taking Stock		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Taking Stock
	526	507 92 VIVA	The Closer "Batter Up"		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums	Encounters	Judging Amy		Medium
	269	350 93 APTN	Canadian Geographic		Waban-aki: Sun Rises		Tears	Vitality Garden	Miywayawin	Find. Our Talk	Wings-Canada
	-	- 94 MCP	World News	News	Banquet	Kingdom-Wind	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical
	571	581 100 MMM	Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Gene Simmons Family Jewels		The Daily Fix		Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Gene Simmons
	570	580 101 MM	Making His Band		Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	One Tree Hill		Making His Band		Video on Trial
cable variety	581	566 102 MTV	The Real World		The Real World (N)		MTV Live	After	16 and Pregnant		Real World

critics' corner

The Tudors

This episode gives a whole new meaning to the term "doubting Thomas." As Henry (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) begins to feel remorse for having executed Sir Thomas More, Sir Thomas Cromwell (James Frain) sees his power growing. The queen (Natalie Dormer) is having insecurity issues of her own, which aren't helped by the French king's refusal to allow the infant Elizabeth to be betrothed to one of his relatives. 9 PM on CBRT

The King and I

The centerpiece of a marathon of Yul Brynner's films, this 1956 musical features him in his signature role, which he also played on Broadway for more than three decades. The tale of a 19th-century Asian king and his children's governess (Deborah Kerr) is based on the novel "Anna and the King of Siam." The memorable score includes "Hello, Young Lovers," "Getting to Know You" and "Shall We Dance?" Rita Moreno and Martin Benson also star. 6 PM on TCM

In brief

TV Reality production company RDF aims to launch the first interactive animated series in the United States. The firm behind such shows as Fox's Don't Forget the Lyrics is designing a TV series in which viewers can participate in the onscreen action. In the series, Sleuths, viewers would customize their own avatars, which will appear onscreen during the show's live telecast.

MOVIES Hancock 2 is taking shape. Columbia Pictures has hired screenwriters Adam Fierro and Glen Mazzara to pen the sequel to the Will Smith superhero movie, which grossed $624 million worldwide last year. The original producing team is expected to return. Plot details are being kept under wraps. REUTERS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

Today High Level Clouds 25 C / 10 C

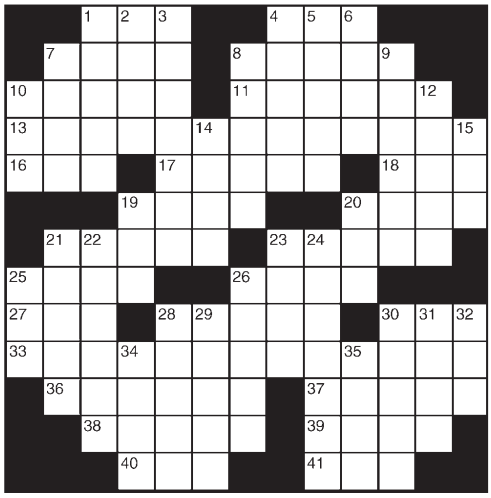
Thursday High Level Clouds 27 C / 9 C

Friday Sunny 27 C / 9 C

BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

9			7		1			8
	7		9		4		5	
		3				6		
		7	8		2	5		
5								7
		1	6		5	3		
		4				2		
	2		4		9		1	
8			3		7			6

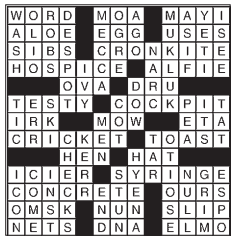
ACROSS

1 Star player, for short
4 Banned bug spray
7 No stay-at-home
8 Matlock's workplace
10 Cole Porter's "Gay" city
11 Like a lot
13 Square 1
16 Aviv preceder
17 Regions
18 Moving vehicle
19 Say it isn't so
20 Lexicographer's bk.
21 Gets dirty
23 Crouch
25 Actress Jessica
26 Libertine
27 Regret
28 Gaggle member
30 "Skip to My –"
33 1996 Ewan McGregor movie
36 Word group
37 Goose egg
38 Twine fiber
39 Initial stake
40 Timid
41 Opener at Vegas?

DOWN

1 Aesopian ending
2 Swerve
3 Knot for human consumption?
4 Evade
5 Writes a Dear John letter
6 Small combo
7 Fence opening
8 Shrewd
9 Miscellaneous data
10 Calif. hours
12 Make into law
14 Charged bits
15 Potent stick
19 24 horas
20 Payable
21 Soup eater's noise
22 Spelling methods?
23 Average
24 100 centavos, in Guatemala
25 Illustrations
26 Force away
28 Grind your teeth
29 English composition
30 Airy airs
31 A single time
32 "Yecch!"
34 Rainbow
35 Turner or Fey

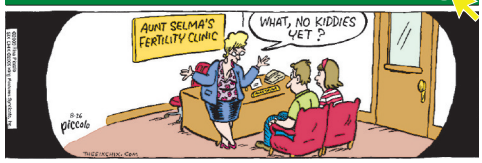
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



7	9	6	1	3	5	2	4	8
3	1	2	7	8	4	9	6	5
8	4	5	6	2	9	7	3	1
9	2	1	4	5	6	8	7	3
6	7	3	9	1	8	5	2	4
5	8	4	2	7	3	6	1	9
2	5	7	8	4	1	3	9	6
1	3	9	5	6	2	4	8	7
4	6	8	3	9	7	1	5	2

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Apple-Stuffed Pork Chops

INGREDIENTS:

1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped onion
1/4 cup (50 ml) butter
3 cups (750 ml) soft bread cubes
2 cups (500 ml) finely chopped apples
1/4 cup (50 ml) finely chopped celery
2 tsp (10 ml) minced fresh parsley
3/4 tsp (4 ml) salt, divided
6 bone-in pork loin chops
1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) pepper
1 tbsp (15 ml) vegetable oil

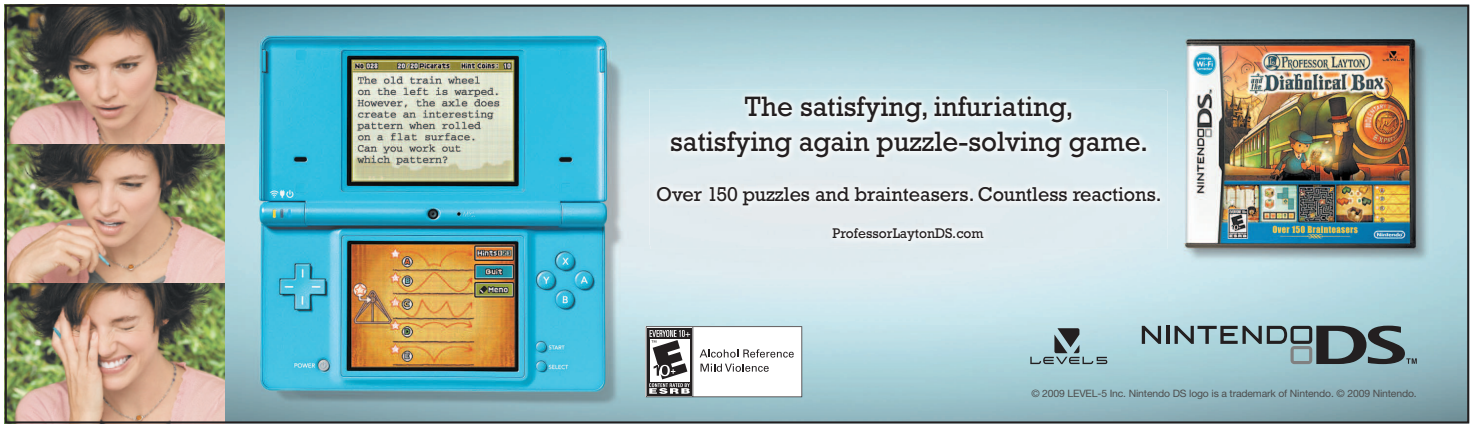
METHOD:

1. In small skillet, sauté onion in butter until tender. Remove from heat; add bread cubes, apples, celery, parsley and 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt.
2. Cut pocket in each chop by making horizontal cut through meat almost to bone. Sprinkle inside and outside with pepper and remaining salt. Spoon stuffing loosely into pockets.
3. In large skillet, brown chops on both sides in oil. Place in large ungreased baking pan.
4. Cover and bake at 350 F (180 C) for 30 minutes. Uncover; bake for 30 minutes longer or until meat thermometer reads 160 F (71 C) when inserted into meat and juices run clear.

SERVES 6

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
The worst possible thing you can do over the next 24 hours is try to guess what other people are thinking.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You have muddled through long enough and unless you get your affairs in order the muddle you're in could cost you dear.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't let other people's doubts hold you back. If there is something you desire then go after it with all you've got.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You may be having second thoughts about something that only yesterday seemed such a good idea.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You speak your mind without fear or favor and the planets indicate you will be even more outspoken than usual today.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't take anything on trust today because others will take advantage of you if they think they can get away with it.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
As mind planet Mercury is now transiting your sign any doubts you had about what you were doing will be swept away.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
It may seem as if you are on a steep learning curve at the moment but you are up to the challenge.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Say the right words today and doors that have been closed to you in the past will miraculously open.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
You are advised not to take what you hear on the work front seriously today.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You need to stretch yourself mentally today, especially as you have been involved in some rather trivial matters of late.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You need to make an effort to talk to people who can help you reach your full potential.

President Nick Jonas?

Musician Nick Jonas admits he has aspirations beyond pop music — and they include being the leader of the free world. "I've always said that I would like to be president," the 16-year-old told CNN. "It's kind of my whole thing. I'm starting the campaign now." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Anti-reality show Candy gets her own show

IRONY After bashing her daughter, Tori, for using her two kids as "reality show props," it looks like Candy Spelling is getting her own show, usmagazine.com reports.

Spelling tells radaronline.com her own show is "sort of" in the works, and added that it would be "scripted."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Shia's film co-star his new fling?

WORKING RELATIONSHIP Shia LaBeouf and Carey Mulligan, co-stars of Oliver Stone's Wall Street sequel, Money Never Sleeps, may also be a pair, people.com reports.

The two were spotted cuddling and kissing Sunday at Extra Virgin, a sidewalk café in the heart of Greenwich Village. LaBeouf's rep had no comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Oprah planning NYC bash?

WITH A BANG Oprah Winfrey is planning to shut down parts of a New York City highway next year for a mammoth block party to celebrate the tenth anniversary of her magazine, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The media mogul launched O, The Oprah Magazine nine years ago — and is planning a major party for next May to celebrate the long-running title.

According to E! Online, Winfrey is looking to shut down portions of the city's West Side Highway for a block party for all her fans — in addition to a star-studded musical revue scheduled at Radio City Music Hall.

A City Hall official has confirmed Winfrey has made permit enquiries for the event; however, the star has so far refused to confirm any details.

Her spokesperson said, "While it is too soon to discuss specifics, we are looking forward to celebrating in a big way."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jon: Reality show an obligation

WORSE THAN A DAY JOB? Jon Gosselin wouldn't mind punching the clock instead of appearing on a hit TLC reality show, usmagazine.com reports.

"I wish I had a 9 to 5 job instead of the nightmare I'm living. This is 24/7," he told usmagazine.com outside his $1.1-million US Pennsylvania home Monday. "I don't even want to do taping for the show anymore."

But Gosselin says he's stuck filming and doing promotional appearances to make as much money as possible. (A source also tells the current issue of Us Weekly that he's "suspicious" Kate is hiding cash ahead of their divorce proceedings. They make an estimated $75,000 US per episode.)

"I have two houses and eight children to take care of and I need to work," he told Us.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

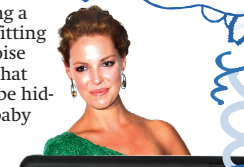
Katherine pregnant?

RUMOUR MILL Katherine Heigl sparked pregnancy rumours after she and husband Josh Kelley were seen shopping for strollers this weekend, according to Hollyscoop.

The actress also gave up her usual cigarette for a lollipop and was wearing a loose-fitting turquoise dress that could be hiding a baby bump.

Heigl's rep had no comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Move over Liam, MiCy's got a new guy

SERIAL DATER? The last we heard about Miley Cyrus' dating life was less than a week ago when he was reportedly spotted sharing a kiss with Liam Hemsworth, her onscreen love interest in the upcoming flick The Last Song, eonline.com reports.

But whatever the two may have had going on wasn't serious, the website muses. Within a couple of hours of landing back in L.A. from the Georgia set, Cyrus was on a date with a new guy, eonline.com added.

The 16-year-old starlet went to the Kings of Leon concert with Carter Jenkins, 17, an actor she briefly dated before she was with underwear model Justin Gaston.

Shortly after Cyrus and Jenkins arrived for the star-studded show, security escorted them to join Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel in the best seats in the house — the technician's booth.

Later, the foursome was spotted going backstage for a VIP after-party.

Carter tweeted after the concert, "KOL killed it. Awesome show & very fun night with MiCy @mileycyrus."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

They grow up so fast: Denise

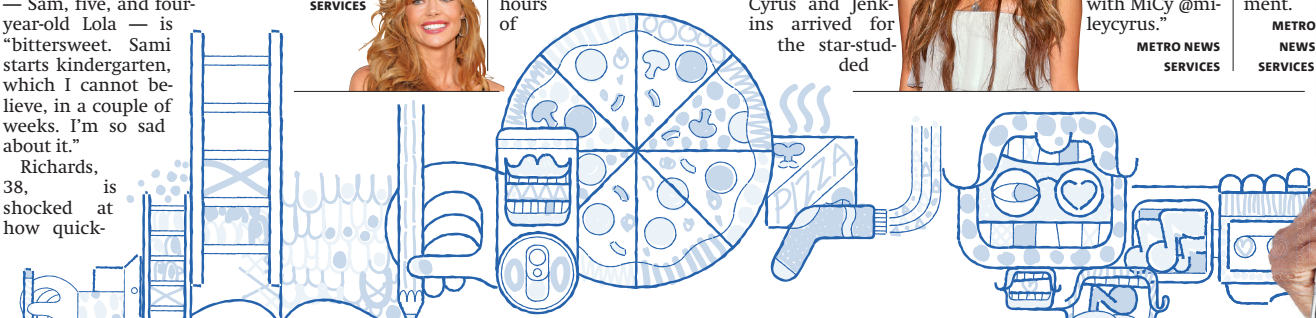
MOTHERHOOD Denise Richards is upset her daughters are going to school, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

She says spending time away from her daughters — Sam, five, and four-year-old Lola — is "bittersweet. Sami starts kindergarten, which I cannot believe, in a couple of weeks. I'm so sad about it."

Richards, 38, is shocked at how quickly the girls have grown up, especially Sam.

She said: "I can't believe how fast five years have gone ... Here on out she's in school."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



THE DORM ROOM WILL BE MY STUDIO... AND YOUTUBE MY STAGE.

Amy sues in-law for leaking letter

Amy Winehouse is seeking $80,000 in damages and suing her former mother-in-law, Georgette Fielder-Civil, for copyright infringement after she sold a personal letter Winehouse wrote to Blake Fielder-Civil while he was in prison. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Robin's next role: Susan Boyle?

HILARITY Robin Williams putting on a dress to play Britain's Got Talent star Susan Boyle in a biopic? It may sound ridiculous, but the actor says it's a possibility.

"I've been asked if I want to play Susan in the movie," Williams told the Daily Telegraph. "I think she's incredible." Williams has reportedly been entertaining his friends with impressions of Boyle with a thick Scottish accent similar to his Mrs. Doubtfire character.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Melanie's third rehab stint

BACKSLIDE Melanie Griffith is in rehab, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The website says the 52-year-old actress has checked into Utah's Cirque Lodge — where Lindsay Lohan and Kirsten Dunst previously received treatment — to be treated for an undisclosed condition.

Her representative Robin Baum said: "She is there to reinforce her commitment to stay healthy. This is part of a routine plan that was designed between her and her doctors years ago."

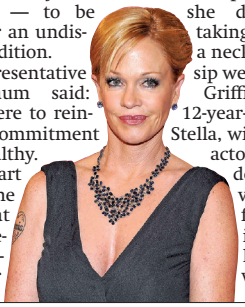
This is Griffith's third stint in a treatment centre. In 1988, she checked in to a facility to help her battle addictions to alcohol and cocaine. In 2000, she sought help for an addiction to painkillers which she developed after taking medication for a neck injury, the gossip website says.

Griffith — who has a 12-year-old daughter, Stella, with her husband, actor Antonio Banderas — has previously said her family has been instrumental in helping her deal with her personal problems. She also has a 24-year-old son, Alexander, and 19-year-old daughter, Dakota, from previous relationships.

It has been claimed her latest stay in rehab came at the insistence of Banderas, who feared her life was spiralling out of control.

A source is quoted by gossip blogger Perez Hilton as saying: "The reason Melanie checked in was her husband was demanding that she get clean and sober. He told her that if she didn't get the help she needed it would be the end of their marriage."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



TomKat-inspired uniforms?

SARTORIAL The designers creating the new uniforms for the Church of Scientology staff members didn't have to look far for inspiration, taking their cues from high-profile church members Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise, according to the Guardian.

"In its entirety, the uniform embodies the essence of international style, at home in Rome or London, but not out of place in Nashville or Inglewood, and equally well suited to South Africa and Australia," promotional material for the new outfits explained.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Britney is my musical muse: Heidi

DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR? Heidi Montag's debut performance at the Miss Universe pageant reminded a lot of people of Britney Spears' infamous snake-charming routine at the 2000 MTV Video Music Awards, and Montag insists it's no accident.

"I grew up watching Britney Spears. That's someone I inspire to be, you know, like, career-wise," Montag told Access Hollywood after the show.

"I think the world is ready for the next pop star and I'm ready to be the next pop galaxy, so here we go."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Miley Cyrus laments the less-enjoyable parts of her job, Ashton Kutcher gets a kick out his public persona, John Mayer ignores instructions and Tila Tequila gets philosophical.

- @mileycyrus I am so over taking pictures. I am NOT made to be a "model"
- @aplusk I love that I'm described as the beer drinking party boy with no cash lol!!!
- @johncmayer Smucker's Uncrustables peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are to be thawed and not microwaved. But I'm high now!
- @officialTila You're nobody to Somebody and somebody to nobody.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jessica's dog a 'lesbian lova'?

WILD IMAGINATION Jessica Simpson thinks her dog is a lesbian. The singer-and-actress claims her maltipoo pooch Daisy — which was a gift from ex-husband Nick Lachey — has found happiness with a hound called Bella, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Alongside a dimly-lit picture of the dogs, Simpson, 29, tweeted: "Daisy and her best friend Bella back together again. Lesbian lovas forever! (sic)"

While Daisy has found love, Simpson is still bitter she's single after being dumped by football star Tony Romo. It was recently reported she had paid a witch she met on the Internet to put a curse on her ex-boyfriend.

A source said: "They lit a candle, burned some incense and performed a couple of incantations."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES

Jen uses boy-toys for fame?

THE RICH AND THE FAMOUS It seems fitting that Jennifer Aniston has been spotted holding hands with Gerard Butler. Friends of the actress say she pursues only guys who can keep her as high-profile as possible, us-magazine.com reports.

"Jennifer won't date a normal guy," a source told the current issue of Us Weekly of the 40-year-old actress. "She goes after the hottest thing of the moment, what she knows will get her the most time in the spotlight," the insider continued.

Aniston is currently filming The Bounty Hunter with Gerard Butler, who starred in The Ugly Truth. Before that, she pursued Bradley Cooper, who anchored The Hangover, which has earned more than $400 million US worldwide since hitting theatres in June.

She's also dated John Mayer (who won five Grammys in 2009 alone) and was married to Brad Pitt.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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